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A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

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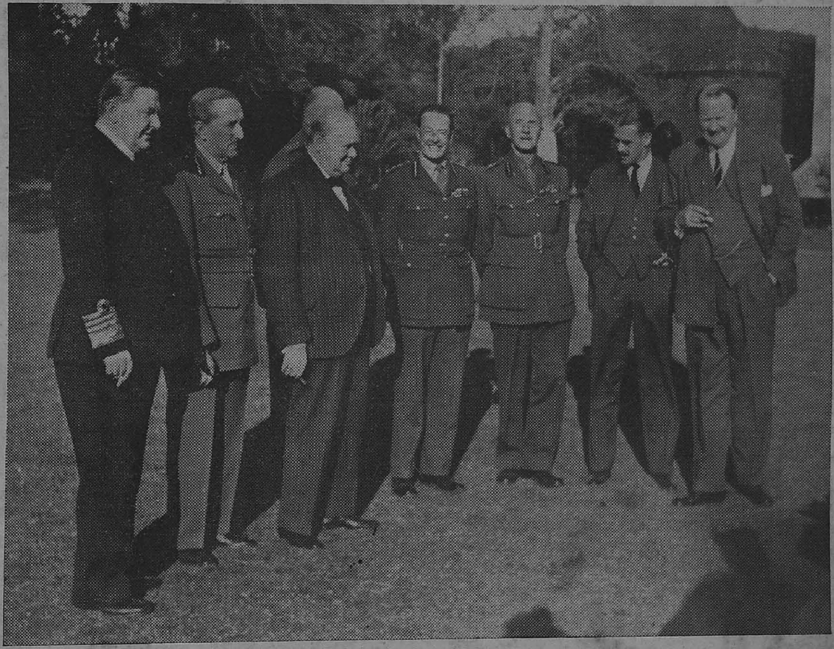
THE DOMINATING AIM



MR. CHURCHILL IN CAIRO

The dominating aim which we set before ourselves in the Conference at Casablanca was to engage the enemy's forces on land, sea, and in the air, on the largest possible scale and at the earliest possible moment . . .

We have to make the enemy burn and bleed in every way physically and reasonably possible, in the same way as he has been burnt and bled along the vast Russian Front from the White Sea to the Black Sea.

We have now a complete plan of action . . . This plan we are going to carry out according to our ability during the next nine months . . .

Everywhere in Egypt, there is the feeling that Britain had kept her word, that we have been a faithful and unfailing Ally, and that we preserved the Nile Valley and its cities, villages, and fertile lands from the horrors of invasion.

MR. CHURCHILL, in his war review in the Commons on February 11.

Running Commentary

Mr. Churchill's War Review—U.S. President on Roads to Tokyo. In his review of the war situation, in the House of Commons on February 11, MR. CHURCHILL referred to the position in the Far East and the operations in Burma. He said, "For the time being in the war against Japan, the British effort is confined to the India theatre. *Our Asiatic war effort is confined to operations particularly in Burma, to open the Burma road to give what aid can be given to the Chinese.*" The British Government have been in close correspondence with MARSHAL CHIANG KAI-SHEK in regard to this matter, and GENERAL ARNOLD, Head of the United States Air Force, and FIELD MARSHAL SIR JOHN DILL have been conferring with the Chinese Generalissimo regarding plans for the future. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has referred to this conference in his nation-wide broadcast address to the American people, on the occasion of the annual dinner of the White House Correspondents' Association on February 12. "Great and decisive actions against the Japanese," he said, "will be taken to drive the invader from the soil of China. Important actions will be taken in the skies over China—and over Japan itself. The discussions at Casablanca have been continued in Chungking with the Generalissimo by GENERAL ARNOLD and have resulted in definite plans for offensive operations. There are many roads which lead right to Tokyo. We shall neglect none of them."

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The overthrow of Japan was one of the important subjects discussed at the Casablanca Conference. It may be said that the Chungking and Calcutta Conferences were to the Far East what the Casablanca Conference was to Europe. Though they form part of the general global strategic plan, the Casablanca Conference primarily concerned itself with a programme of action for the overthrow of Germany and Italy in Europe, and the Chungking and Calcutta Conferences devoted their attention to war plans in India and the Far East for the overthrow of Japan.

Wavell-Ho Ying-Chin Talks. The important discussions in which FIELD MARSHAL WAVELL and GENERAL HO YING-CHIN, the Chinese Minister for War, participated should not, however, be taken as an indication that a new big offensive is to be taken from India in the near future to reconquer lost territory. *It is even possible that the Conferences might have reached the decision that the time was not yet ripe for a big seaborne offensive against Japan*—the only possible way at present of carrying out an effective offensive—before the monsoon. By the middle of next month, the monsoon will already begin to be felt along the Arakan Coast, and high winds and rough seas will make it difficult for landing craft to operate. In case postponement of operations was decided on, it must have been done with the full consent of China. But it is of interest to note that the *communiquè* issued after the Conferences announced that there will be a conference between GENERAL MACARTHUR and FIELD MARSHAL WAVELL in India to ensure fullest co-operation. This is a clear indication that *large plans for striking at the heart of Japan are under consideration.*

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Britain and Burma: Plans for Post-War Reconstruction. So far as Burma herself is concerned, the British Government have been taking considerable interest in the matter of post-war reconstruction. Replying to a question in Parliament, MR. AMERY, Secretary

SOUTHERN ARMY SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

With this Number is issued a Southern Army Special Supplement consisting of 24 pages.

The Editor wishes to thank Military authorities who have contributed articles and pictures to this Supplement and hopes it will be of some help in increasing the mutual respect and good fellowship between the Military and the Civil population.

H.E. GENERAL HO YING-CHIN, Chief of the Chinese General Staff and War Minister since 1929, has visited India at the invitation of Field Marshal Wavell. This follows the conferences held at Chungking between Chinese, American and British Chiefs.

H.E. GENERAL HO YING-CHIN arrived at Delhi Air-port with Lieutenant-General Yu Ta Wei, where they were greeted by Field Marshal Wavell. Photo shows General Ho Ying-Chin with Field Marshal Wavell.

of State for India and Burma, indicated the directions in which the British Government are helping the Burma Government at present located in India. They are mainly threefold :—

(1) To establish an organisation to meet the requirements of the military authorities in the operations for the recovery of the country and afford the fullest co-operation in hastening the defeat of the Japanese ;

(2) To formulate plans for the material reconstruction of Burma and for the re-establishment of normal life of the country after the eviction of the Japanese ;

(3) To study the whole field of administrative problems and make proposals for future policy.

The future of Burma thus involves *long-term and short-term plans.* The short-term plan is that of clearing the Japanese out of Burma and of bringing some sort of order out of the present chaos. The long-term plan relates to the great work of reconstruction which will build a Burma able to stand on her own feet, defend herself both from armed attack and from undue commercial competition, and work whatever form of self-government may be found to be most suitable to her.

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At present, Burma does not enjoy any kind of freedom. As in other occupied countries, the Japanese have dissolved all political parties. They have disillusioned even those Burmans who helped their armies to advance into the country and proved beyond doubt that their object is not to give freedom, but to keep Burma under their iron heel. *Britain's policy is to help her to regain the freedom which she had lost and restore the self-government which she was enjoying.* There is nothing perhaps which is more easy than to declare Burma independent and to fix a date for her attainment of that goal, as was demonstrated by Japan, but that would not be honest, and it would be doing the greatest disservice to Burmans themselves, for Burma is at present relatively undeveloped and has now been devastated by war and Japanese exploitation. She can only enjoy real independence after a period of reconstruction—reconstruction not as a

(*Continued on page* 6.)

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" ONE thing at a time, and that done well, is a very good rule, as many can tell "— so runs an old saying. But Soviet Russia has proved that many things at a time, and everything done well, is the best rule in dealing with the Nazi hordes. Her policy of bringing simultaneous pressure to bear on widely separated German strongholds along the front has brought success after success. This has forced the Germans to fight on grounds chosen by the Russians and prevented them from switching reserves from one area to another.

THE capture of Rostov, which is one of the greatest successes of the Red Army, is the result of this strategy. From the way in which things were working at first, it seemed that the Russians were driving straight to Rostov, and it was expected that one of the fiercest battles in the Russian campaign would be fought for the capital of the Don Cossack country. But what really happened was that the impact of the Russian drive did not speedily and directly fall on Rostov, but was distributed to widely separated positions. Kursk, Kharkov and Voroshilovgrad, three other German strongholds, were subjected to simultaneous and grave pressure. The Germans had thus to worry not only about Rostov, but also about the other important bases at the same time.

The German Winter Line

THE Germans could not afford to lose any of these bases, for on them rested their real winter line. Their main strong points along their north-south line of communications were Rostov, Voroshilovgrad, Kharkov, Byelgorod, Kursk and Orel, and all of them, except Orel, have been captured by the Red Army. These positions were captured by forces which struck out north, west and south from Russian strongholds like Voronezh, Valuiki, Millerovo, Kupyansk, Salsk and Tikhoretsk. When the Germans lost Tikhoretsk, they had still hopes of defending themselves with their backs to the Sea of Azov and along the arc which stretches from Rostov to Novorossisk, but when they lost Kuschevskaya, that hope also vanished, because Marshal von List's Kuban army was split into two by the capture of this railway junction, through which runs the westerly railway line to Rostov. One part of the army is heading straight to the Kerch Straits and the other is in a small bridgehead south of the Don Estuary.

Changed hands Four Times

THE point that we desire to stress is that the capture of Rostov was rendered easier on account of the simultaneous thrusts on three other German strongholds. This is the fourth time that Rostov has changed hands. It was captured by the Germans on November 23, 1941, but only six days later, it was recaptured by Russian forces

under the leadership of Marshal Timoshenko. Eight months afterwards, that is on July 24, 1942, it again fell into the German hands. And last Sunday, February 14, 1943, six months and three weeks later, it has been recaptured by the Red Army a second time, and it may be stated with a good deal of certainty that it will not change hands again.

THE capture of Rostov is highly important, for it represents the completion of the first stage of the reconquest of the entire Donetz Basin. To the Germans it was the gateway to the Caucasus, and now it has become the gateway to the Ukraine to the Russians. It is one of the most important railway junctions of Southern Russia, and an important port for seagoing ships. Before the German invasion, it was the centre of a very important coal and industrial region, and 50 per cent of the Caucasus oil came through the gigantic pipeline, of which it was the western terminus. But the capture of Rostov by the Germans was not of much economic gain to them, because all factories and machinery were safely carried away to the Urals region much earlier.

Timing and Technique

THE important thing to note in the capture of Rostov is the timing and technique of the Soviet strategical drive. It is stated that the distinctive feature of highly disciplined troops is the capacity to hold their fire in the face of an advancing enemy until the most critical moment, and that the hallmark of good generalship is the exercise of a sort of sixth sense in deciding exactly when and where to strike back. The Russian successes are due to the possession of both these qualities. They launched their attacks neither too soon, nor too late. The counter-offensive which began with the encirclement of the German Sixth Army provides a brilliant demonstration of perfect timing, and the manner in which Rostov was captured by threatening all the German bases on the Voronezh front at the same time reveals the masterly technique of Russian strategy.

After Rostov—Kharkov

THE same technique has brought about the fall of Kharkov, just two days after the capture of Rostov. On February 16, after a determined attack which eventually led to fierce street fighting, the Russian troops captured the City of Kharkov. The liberation of the City from enemy hands and the routing of the Nazi forces were brought about by the Soviet troops commanded by Colonel-General Golikov. A few hours before the official Soviet announcement of the capture of Hitler's greatest base in South Russia, a German military spokesman told a Swedish newspaper correspondent, "We have suffered a defeat unprecedented in this war." It was an unprecedented defeat no doubt, but it was not unexpected. When Kupyansk, Novo Oskol, and Byelgorod, the key German outpost between Kharkov and Kursk, were captured, it was evident that the threat to Kharkov from Soviet forces operating on the south-east and north-east of the town was of a serious character, and its fall a mere question of time.

"East Wall" Crumbles

ROSTOV, Kursk and Kharkov—the next step is Orel. With the capture of Orel, Germany's "East Wall" will crumble. The hammer strokes Hitler's hordes are receiving in quick succession spell the early doom of the Axis in Russia.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page 3.*)

mere supplier of food, raw materials and revenue to Japanese imperialism, but as an autonomous unit in world economy.

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For the purpose of such a reconstruction, the Governor of Burma has set up a special department to prepare plans to study the economic and social problems and draw up proposals on which the future reconstruction of Burma can be based. MR. AMERY stated that "the Burmese Premier, the Finance Minister and other Burmans are closely connected with this department which is manned by young officers of proved ability." This is a great task that has been undertaken, for it involves a range over every detail of administration, law and order, communications, education, health, land, industry, commerce and finance, and will cost far more money than the Japanese would ever be prepared to put into Burma, and will be discharged with far more honesty than the Japanese have shown in attempting to make a quick profit out of a ravaged country, all the time dangling the bait of "independence" before the Burmese people.

Diary of the War

ENGLAND AND GERMANY

12th Feb.—Mr. Churchill reviewed the war situation in the House of Commons.

Three German aircraft were destroyed by the Royal Air Force over the south coast of England.

13th Feb.—There was an artillery duel across the Channel.

14th Feb.—The Royal Air Force attacked docks and shipping at Boulogne and Saint Malo and iron and steel works at Ijmuiden.

15th Feb.—L'Orient, Western Germany and Northern France were attacked by the Royal Air Force. Four Axis planes were shot down into the Channel.

Cologne and Milan were also bombed and Dunkirk was twice raided.

16th Feb.—It was reported that Hitler was preparing to give up the supreme command of the German forces to Marshal von Manstein. It was also reported that he was preparing to form a Defence Council.

17th Feb.—The Government decided "to accept in principle the main features of the Beveridge Plan" of social security for all.

The Royal Air Force raided targets in Belgium and Western Germany.

18th Feb.—The Royal Air Force attacked Lorient. German raiders were over South Wales.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

12th Feb.—Col. Frank Knox, United States Navy Secretary, in a speech on the anniversary of Lincoln's birth said that isolation—Political military and economic—was no longer possible, for the American people whose welfare was bound up with the welfare of all peoples.

13th Feb.—President Roosevelt broadcasting from the annual dinner of the White House Correspondents' Association indicated that the United Nations planned to open a second front in Europe after the coming battle in Tunisia.

15th Feb.—The great 35,000-ton French battleship **Richelieu,**—one of the world's greatest surface warships—arrived in New York harbour from Dakar.

18th Feb.—Marshal Timoshenko arrived in Washington.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

12th Feb.—It was announced that a Lend-Lease Mission from America would be shortly coming out to India.

The Royal Air Force aircraft attacked objectives in enemy-occupied Burma. Stiff fighting continued in Arakan.

Two Chinese Generals, General Ho Yin Chin, Chief of the Chinese General staff and War Minister and Lieut.-General Yu Ta Wei, Master-General of Ordnance, arrived in India on a visit.

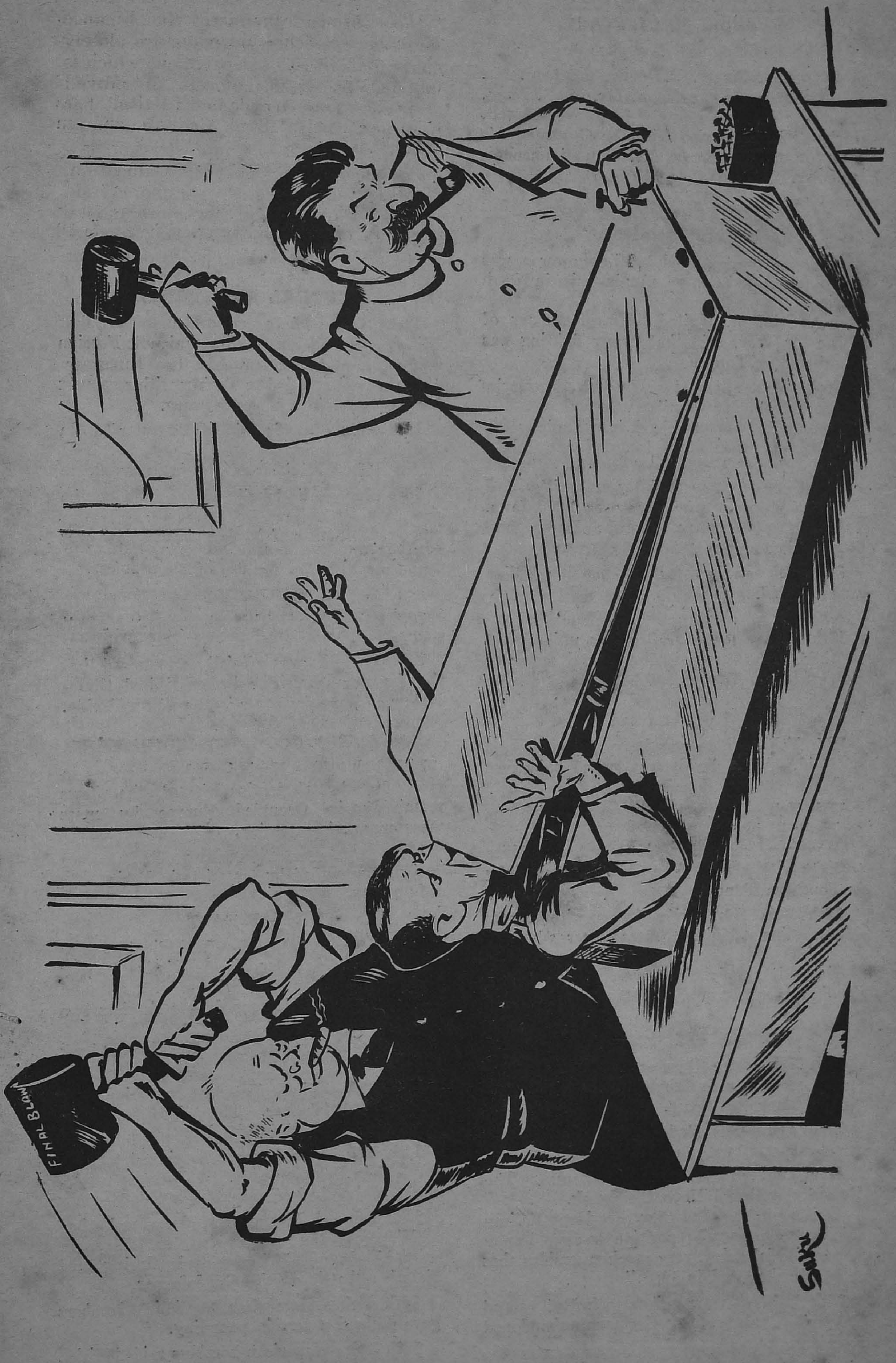
13th Feb.—Enemy attacks in the vicinity of Donbaik and Rathedaung were repulsed.

14th Feb.—The Royal Air Force attacked enemy objectives, especially in the Lower Chindwin region.

15th Feb.—The Royal Air Force attacked Kalachaung village on the Mayu Peninsula. Two enemy aircraft were destroyed and several damaged.

17th Feb.—The Royal Air Force attacked the Japanese aerodrome at Magwe.

(*Continued on page* 8.)


FINAL BLOW

DIARY OF THE WAR

(*Continued from page 6*)

The Hon. Sir H. P. Mody, the Hon. Mr. N. R. Sarcar and the Hon. Mr. M. S. Aney, Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council, resigned in connexion with the Government's decision not to release Mr. Gandhi unconditionally.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

12th Feb.—General Eisenhower was appointed Allied Commander-in-Chief in North Africa.

Mr. Stimson, United States Secretary of State for War, said that heavy fighting was imminent in Tunisia.

13th Feb.—Several Under Secretaries resigned from Mussolini's Government.

Rommel's troops fell back into Tunisia.

Wholesale evacuations from villages along the coastline of Africa were carried out by the order of the German military authorities.

The Eighth Army released over 2,000 Jews, residents of Tobruk, Derna, Barce and Benghazi.

14th Feb.—Axis thrust in Ousseltia Valley was repelled.

The Government of Albania resigned.

15th Feb.—The Eighth Army units made another forward push in the coastal sector of Tunisia. Bizerta was bombed.

American aircraft bombed Naples; British bombers attacked Calabria and Sicily.

16th Feb.—There was heavy fighting west of Faid. Allied bombers attacked objectives at Maknassy and Sened.

17th Feb.—Rommel was reported to be seriously ill in Germany.

American troops left Gafsa but the Allies took Ben Gardane. The Germans withdrew in Southern Tunisia.

18th Feb.—Rommel's forces withdrew to Mareth line. United States forces advanced 10 miles.

Six Axis supply ships were sunk in the Mediterranean.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

12th Feb.—The Russians retook Lozovaya on the main line to Crimea and landed troops on the Black Sea Coast.

13th Feb.—The Red Army retook Krasnodar. Kharkov was partially encircled.

14th Feb.—Rostov was in flames. The Russians captured Novo Cherkassk.

Writing in the *Red Star*, President Kalinin said: "Germany's position to-day, despite her territorial gains, very much resembles that in which she stood in 1918."

15th Feb.—The Russians took Rostov and Voroshilovgrad. The Germans abandoned Kharkov.

16th Feb.—Kharkov defences were breached and the Russian forces advanced on Taganrog. Over 100 German tanks were destroyed and 15 were captured.

17th Feb.—It was reported that Marshal Timoshenko was *en route* to the United States with four Russian Staff Generals and an Admiral.

The Russians entered Kharkov and closed in on Orel.

18th Feb.—The Russian troops took Slavinsk, Ziev and Roventry. They were 12 miles from Taganrog.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

12th Feb.—There were rumours that Mihail Antonescu, Rumanian Foreign Minister, and brother of the Rumanian "Dictator," had fled to Turkey with a request for mediation in a separate peace.

14th Feb.—An air raid alert sounded in Zurich and Basle.

The Prime Minister of Persia resigned.

15th Feb.—Ali Soheily was chosen as the new Premier of Iran by the Shah.

A great number of foreign aircraft flew over Switzerland.

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SHIPPING

12th Feb.—The British submarine "P. 48" was lost.

17th Feb.—It was officially announced that the Japanese sank one heavy United States cruiser and one destroyer in the South Pacific.

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

14th Feb.—The Nazis issued new orders to speed up the extermination of the Jews remaining in Occupied Europe by mass massacres and starvation.

15th Feb.—Two German officers were seriously wounded by terrorists in Paris.

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THE FAR EAST

12th Feb.—Mr. Stimson, United States Secretary of State for War, disclosed that 4,000 Japanese were killed and 105 taken prisoner in the Solomons during the last two weeks of January.

The main Japanese force was thrown back at Wau.

13th Feb.—Three Japanese warships were sunk in Guadalcanar. The Japanese were decisively defeated in the Wau area.

14th Feb.—Allied troops continued to push forward in Salamau area. A Japanese transport was bombed off Cape Orford.

15th Feb.—A Japanese patrol was ambushed at Wau. It was revealed that 6,066 Japanese were killed and 127 captured during the victorious battle on the Guadalcanar.

16th Feb.—More than 30 Allied bombers gave Rabaul a terrific pounding.

17th Feb.—American bombers raided Kiska.

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